

Law Enforcement - Plumas NF (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700389

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Plumas National Forest encompasses approximately 1,146,000 acres of public land extending from Highway 395 on the east; over the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to Lake Oroville on the west; north to Lake Almanor, CA, a beautiful recreation lake in the shadow of Mt. Lassen; and south to New Bullard's Bar Reservoir near Camptonville, CA. The Forest is split in the middle by State Highway 70 which provides easy access to the Forest for visitors from not only the central valley of California but also northwestern Nevada. The Forest boasts of eleven significant recreation lakes, the Feather River Drainage, Bucks Lake Wilderness and the Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Four season recreational opportunities abound on the Forest.

Winter brings snowmobile (OSV) adventures throughout the Forest but use is focused through the management of five snowmobile staging areas (LaPorte, Gold Lake, Big Creek, Bucks Summit and Four Trees) that provide access to approximately 182 miles of designated groomed trails. In addition there are 192 miles of designated but ungroomed trails in the Lexington, Lake Davis, Lumpkin Ridge and Frenchman Lake areas. Loop riding, staging area to staging area, as well as open area riding is provided by the groomed and ungroomed trail system.

As winter secedes to the warmth of spring and summer lengthens into fall, local residences and visitors from significant urban areas (Sacramento, Quincy, Grass Valley, Oroville, Paradise, and Reno, NV) flock to the Forest pulling their choice of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV). On the Forest, they utilize approximately 3,600 miles of forest roads and trails in the pursuit of forest product removal, bird watching, fishing, hunting or simply just enjoying their choice of OHV.

The Forest maintains communication with the recreating public via public information notices in the local paper, a comprehensive internet website, and personal contact with visitors. Public information notices are printed in the local papers to inform visitors about upcoming use restrictions and opportunities to comment on planning processes that affect recreational opportunities on the Forest. The Forest website provides the status of current planning processes, such as route designation; the current conditions and status of recreational facilities, including groomed trails; access to maps and brochures; and restrictions in effect throughout the Forest. Information and personal contact with Forest employees is available at each of the Forest offices and the Forest partners with volunteer groups to further disseminate information throughout the recreating community.

In addition, the Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officers provide information to the public on a daily basis during routine patrols. Further, Forest enforcement personnel utilize enforcement contacts to educate the public regarding planning processes that may effect them (route designation), current temporary use restrictions (fire area closures and OHV use restrictions), safe and responsible riding practices, and state and federal laws and regulations applicable to OHV and OSV use. When available, maps and brochures detailing this information is handed out during enforcement contacts.

Unique enforcement circumstances on the Forest vary from season to season. Throughout the Forest, the pains of change are felt as the Forest moves slowly from an "Open" forest to a "Designated Route" Forest. Users who have traditionally enjoyed the Forest with limited OHV restrictions actively resist the change. The proximity of the Forest to significant urban areas results in significant use patterns in popular OHV spots such as Lake Davis, Frenchman Lake, Sly Creek, Gansner Bar, Antelope Lake, and Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Consistent enforcement presence in these areas is necessary to ensure compliance with the new vehicle use restrictions, specifically, as well as all applicable state and federal OHV regulations.

During the winter, enforcement focus turns to the higher country where snow provides relatively easy access to the Bucks Lake Wilderness and contact of violators is very challenging and requires significant effort. The Lakes Basin Recreation Area is also a significant attraction for snowmobilers seeking a high, open country riding challenge. This project includes the purchase of two snowmobiles and a trailer for use in accessing these areas for enforcement.

Through education and enforcement, Plumas National Forest enforcement personnel remain committed to safe,

sustainable OHV/OSV recreation and seek to partner with the California Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division in order to maintain a significant level of enforcement of State and Federal OHV regulations throughout the Forest as well as to specifically target the issue of wilderness intrusion and increase the enforcement presence within the popular OHV areas.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

Within the congressional boundary of the Plumas National Forest are approximately 1,146,000 acres, or 1790 square miles, of national forest system lands. The Forest is approximately 84 miles wide (west to east) and 66 miles long (north to south). State Highways 49, 70, 89 and 395 provide major access onto the Forest and connection with approximately 635 miles of Forest Level 3, 4 and 5 forest roads. In turn, the approximately 3,600 miles of forest roads and trails spider-web out from the higher standard roads.

During the summer, all of these forest roads are maintained for use by OHVs. During the winter, approximately 182 miles of roads are groomed for snowmobile use and an additional 192 roads are designated for snowmobile use but not groomed.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) generally work Monday through Friday during the daylight hours. They will provide the enforcement backbone during these times, specifically in those areas accessible by vehicle. The FPO patrols during the week will be augmented by Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) who have staggered days off during the week but are available 24/7 for incident response. LEOs will provide routine patrols on the weekends. LEOs and FPOs will combine efforts for specific incident response as well as snowmobile enforcement patrols. Patrol frequency at the snowmobile staging areas and on the groomed trail system during the winter is significantly higher than at any location on the Forest during the summer due to the geographical patrol area variation. During the winter season, the snowmobile staging areas are currently checked at least once per day during the peak hours, usually from 10:00 a.m. to dark. Snowmobile enforcement patrols currently occur on weekends during the same hours.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

Throughout the four seasons, the Plumas National Forest Management team seeks to provide safe, and sustainable off highway vehicle opportunities within their administrative area. As a member of the Plumas National Forest management team, the Law Enforcement and Investigations Patrol Captain assists the team in achieving their management goals by providing critical feedback obtained from his team of Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officers who are in daily contact with all user groups throughout the year.

During the winter snowmobile season, Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) and Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) routinely visit the six snowmobile staging areas located throughout the Forest. These visits provide opportunities to monitor activity levels, monitor snow conditions, identify overdue riders, enforce groomed trail restrictions and conduct registration compliance. Snowmobile enforcement patrols are conducted on the groomed trails, and off when necessary, to provide public information, education and assistance in addition to enforcement of laws applicable to over-the-snow vehicle operation (i.e. registration, alcohol/drug violations, careless/reckless driving). The snowmobile enforcement patrols also provide opportunities to identify resource damage and wilderness (closed area) intrusion violations. Also, when the unfortunate happens, the LEOs and FPOs respond to investigate OSV accidents and to assist county search and rescue teams in locating lost and/or injured snowmobilers. Currently, snowmobile enforcement patrols occur utilizing borrowed snowmobiles when available. This project includes the purchase of two snowmobiles, a trailer, supplies and funding for seasonal maintenance for the purchased snowmobiles. The purchase of this equipment will facilitate access to high use areas during key use periods as well as ensure that snowmobiles are available when needed for search and rescue activities.

During the summer season, the LEOs and FPOs utilize marked patrol vehicles and OHVs to travel the approximately 3,632 miles of forest roads and trails. Enforcement personnel stagger their days off and utilize random patrol times to provide an identifiable presence on the Forest through the summer season. Enforcement patrols identify registration, spark arrester, helmet, passenger and alcohol/drug violations in addition to resource damage and closed area intrusions. LEOs and FPOs

document and resolve all identified violations through education, enforcement or arrest commensurate with the circumstances and their authority. As in the winter season, enforcement personnel conduct or assist with accident investigations and search and rescue activities.

Encompassed within the general enforcement activities undertaken by Forest law enforcement personnel are two key enforcement issues. The first is OSV wilderness intrusion. Wilderness intrusion consistently occurs during periods in which the snow conditions are conducive. Attempts to enforce the restriction have met with limited success. Forest enforcement personnel will continue their efforts to curb the illegal entry into the Forest's wilderness.

The second issue is OHV use in the the Lakes Basin Recreation Area, Sly Creek, and Gansner Bar areas. Located in Plumas County, the Gansner Bar area is directly adjacent to the High Lakes OHV area on the Lassen National Forest. It provides challenging OHV opportunities through beautiful high country terrain. Its close proximity to Paradise, Chico, Quincy, and Oroville ensures that it receives consistent use during much of the year. Providing the opportunity for serious OHV enthusiasts to play while protecting the resources to ensure sustainable OHV opportunities has been a continuing challenge for Forest managers. Enforcement of applicable laws and regulations within this area is critical to sustainability. In addition, the Sly Creek area and Lakes Basin Recreation Area, also in Plumas County, pose similar management challenges to Forest enforcement.

LE Certification

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Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

The Gansner Bar, Sly Creek areas and the Lakes Basin Recreation Area are the highest summer enforcement priority for the Forest. The influx of off highway vehicle enthusiasts into the areas over time places a burden on the natural resources in the areas. Each of these areas have cultural resources as well as sensitive habitats which must be protected but the enforcement of OHV regulations for public safety are paramount.

Wilderness intrusions into the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area are the highest winter enforcement priority.

Snowmobile enforcement patrols are conducted on key days (holiday weekends with full moon) with ideal snow conditions. Although it is extremely difficult to make contact with violators, some of these patrols have been successful.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

The proposed project is specifically directed towards the enforcement aspect of OHV recreation management. Engineering, education and enforcement are ongoing processes conducted by Forest OHV management personnel to ensure sustained OHV recreation on the Forest. Forest enforcement personnel educate the public and when necessary, enforce OHV and resource related regulations to provide two legs of the management triangle. The project will provide additional funding to maintain and improve the presence of enforcement personnel for education and enforcement.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

The law enforcement agencies with geographical and jurisdictional commonalities with the Plumas National Forest include: Plumas County Sheriff's Office, Lassen County Sheriff's Office, Yuba County Sheriff's Office, Sierra County Sheriff's Office, Butte County Sheriff's Office, California Department of Fish and Game, California Highway Patrol, and Plumas-Eureka State Park.

The Forest Service currently has law enforcement patrol agreements with all five counties to document formal cooperation and reimbursement for law enforcement activities, including OHV/OSV enforcement, on national forest system lands.

Informal cooperation occurs on a daily basis between officers in the field.

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4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(Please select Yes or No)

Explain

Although fees are collected in return for issuance of a permit for an event on national forest system lands these fees are not a significant source of funding and are routinely maintained for management of the permitting process.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? ☒ Yes ☐ No

(Please select Yes or No)

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

Mandatory OHV/OSV safety training is required before agency personnel can operate OHVs and OSVs in the performance of their duties. This training ensures that enforcement personnel can educate the public on OHV/OSV safety and address unsafe OHV/OSV operation.

In addition, Forest Service enforcement personnel are specifically trained to identify and address natural and cultural resource protection. These skills are inherent to their duties.

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7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

Law Enforcement - Page 4

10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
The Lassen/Plumas NF Patrol District does not operate or manage OHV recreation facilities. The Lassen and Plumas National Forests may submit separate applications detailing how their respective OHV recreation facilities are being managed.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate

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APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Lassen/Plumas NF - Patrol District		
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement - Plumas NF (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-27-L02
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Plumas National Forest encompasses approximately 1,146,000 acres of public land extending from Highway 395 on the east; over the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to Lake Oroville on the west; north to Lake Almanor, CA, a beautiful recreation lake in the shadow of Mt. Lassen; and south to New Bullard's Bar Reservoir near Camptonville, CA. The Forest is split in the middle by State Highway 70 which provides easy access to the Forest for visitors from not only the central valley of California but also northwestern Nevada. The Forest boasts of eleven significant recreation lakes, the Feather River Drainage, Bucks Lake Wilderness and the Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Four season recreational opportunities abound on the Forest.</p> <p>Winter brings snowmobile (OSV) adventures throughout the Forest but use is focused through the management of five snowmobile staging areas (LaPorte, Gold Lake, Big Creek, Bucks Summit and Four Trees) that provide access to approximately 182 miles of designated groomed trails. In addition there are 192 miles of designated but ungroomed trails in the Lexington, Lake Davis, Lumpkin Ridge and Frenchman Lake areas. Loop riding, staging area to staging area, as well as open area riding is provided by the groomed and ungroomed trail system.</p> <p>As winter secedes to the warmth of spring and summer lengthens into fall, local residences and visitors from significant urban areas (Sacramento, Quincy, Grass Valley, Oroville, Paradise, and Reno, NV) flock to the Forest pulling their choice of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV). On the Forest, they utilize approximately 3,600 miles of forest roads and trails in the pursuit of forest product removal, bird watching, fishing, hunting or simply just enjoying their choice of OHV.</p> <p>The Forest maintains communication with the recreating public via public information notices in the local paper, a comprehensive internet website, and personal contact with visitors. Public information notices are printed in the local papers to inform visitors about upcoming use restrictions and opportunities to comment on planning processes that affect recreational opportunities on the Forest. The Forest website provides the status of current planning processes, such as route designation; the current conditions and status of recreational facilities, including groomed trails; access to maps and brochures; and restrictions in effect throughout the Forest. Information and personal contact with Forest employees is available at each of the Forest offices and the Forest partners with volunteer groups to further disseminate information throughout the recreating community.</p> <p>In addition, the Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officers provide information to the public on a daily basis during routine patrols. Further, Forest enforcement personnel utilize enforcement contacts to educate the public regarding planning processes that may effect them (route designation), current temporary use restrictions (fire area closures and OHV use restrictions), safe and responsible riding practices, and state and federal laws and regulations applicable to OHV and OSV use. When available, maps and brochures detailing this information is handed out during enforcement contacts.</p> <p>Unique enforcement circumstances on the Forest vary from season to season. Throughout the Forest, the pains of change are felt as the Forest moves slowly from an "Open" forest to a "Designated Route" Forest. Users who have traditionally enjoyed the Forest with limited OHV restrictions actively resist the change. The proximity of the Forest to significant urban areas results in significant use patterns in popular OHV spots such as Lake Davis, Frenchman Lake, Sly Creek, Gansner Bar, Antelope Lake, and Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Consistent enforcement presence in these areas is necessary to ensure</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Lassen/Plumas NF - Patrol District
Application: Law Enforcement - Plumas NF (FINAL)

2/26/2010

		<p>compliance with the new vehicle use restrictions, specifically, as well as all applicable state and federal OHV regulations.</p> <p>During the winter, enforcement focus turns to the higher country where snow provides relatively easy access to the Bucks Lake Wilderness and contact of violators is very challenging and requires significant effort. The Lakes Basin Recreation Area is also a significant attraction for snowmobilers seeking a high, open country riding challenge. This project includes the purchase of two snowmobiles and a trailer for use in accessing these areas for enforcement.</p> <p>Through education and enforcement, Plumas National Forest enforcement personnel remain committed to safe, sustainable OHV/OSV recreation and seek to partner with the California Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division in order to maintain a significant level of enforcement of State and Federal OHV regulations throughout the Forest as well as to specifically target the issue of wilderness intrusion and increase the enforcement presence within the popular OHV areas.</p>					
	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : 3 LEO's; 20 days per year	20.000	266.000	DAY	0.00	5,320.00	5,320.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : Overtime/Holiday	4.000	327.000	DAY	1,308.00	0.00	1,308.00
	Other-Patrol Captain	5.000	376.000	DAY	0.00	1,880.00	1,880.00
	Total for Staff				1,308.00	7,200.00	8,508.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-OSV/OHV Supplies and Maintenance Notes : Belts, plugs, oil, parts, annual maintenance, repairs etc.	1.000	1192.000	YR	1,192.00	0.00	1,192.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
5	Equipment Purchases						
	Other-OHV/OSV Trailer	1.000	6000.000	EA	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
	Other-Snowmobiles	2.000	8500.000	EA	17,000.00	0.00	17,000.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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2/26/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Equipment Purchases				23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00
6	Others						
	Training	1.000	2000.000	YR	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs	1.000	3000.000	YR	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
	Total Program Expenses				27,500.00	10,200.00	37,700.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				27,500.00	10,200.00	37,700.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				27,500.00	10,200.00	37,700.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Lassen/Plumas NF - Patrol District
Application: Law Enforcement - Plumas NF (FINAL)

2/26/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	1,308.00	7,200.00	8,508.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	1,192.00	0.00	1,192.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00	
6	Others	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Total Program Expenses		27,500.00	10,200.00	37,700.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		27,500.00	10,200.00	37,700.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		27,500.00	10,200.00	37,700.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment